The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 33. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1923. WHOLE NO. 656.

Victimization of the Working People by the Political State

English Unemployment Insurance Drives Women Workers Into Domestic Service

The alternative of accepting employment as domestic servants or having their unemployment benefit cut off is being presented to skilled women workers in Great Britain by the administrators of the unemployment insurance law.

This abuse has become so flagrant that the 1923 British trades union congress protested against women who have served an appreticeship or received proper training for some trade or calling being refused unemployment benefits the premiums for which they have duly paid, because they refuse to go into domestic service when unemployed.

The National Amalgramated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks now has a typical case of this kind with respect to one of the union's members.

The woman had had 15 years' experience as a saleswoman in the distributive trades, during the last six of which she had held the position of manageress. She became unemployed and registered at the employment exchange, which offered her a situation as a general servant at wages approximating nine shillings to twelve shillings a week. She refused to accept this type of work and the local court of referees suspended her unemployment benefit for six weeks.

The union appealed the decision to the umpire, stressing the points that the work was entirely unsuitable to one with the experience mentioned and that it was a great injustice to bring such undue pressure to bear upon her to forego the training gained and to accept work in an occupation in which she had no previous experience and no desire to enter and which would have the effect of rendering a return at a future date to her appropriate occupation almost impossible.

The umpire reversed the decision of the court of referees and allowed the claim in full.

But trade unionists maintain that there is a concerted movement by the administration of the unemployment insurance act to drive skilled women workers into domestic service by withholding their unemployment benefits.

Inquisition Into Private Affairs Under Compulsory Unemployment Insurance

Manchester, England, Nov. 3.—The inquisition into the private affairs of the workers practiced by labor exchange committees in the administration of the British unemployment insurance act is severaly criticized by a trade unionist contributor in the Cotton Factory Times.

Although the workers are compelled to make payments to the unemployment insurance fund when they are employed, they are subjected to a needless lot of cross-examination by the committees before receiving their "dole."

"Why is it necessary that questions should be asked of the unemployed as to their financial problem?" asks the Cotton Factory Times writer. "If a man pays to the unemployment fund when he is working, should he not draw when he is out of work? Why these questions as to whether he has any children working, or any brothers or sisters working, or how much money he has coming in at his house?

"Speaking strictly the payment of moneys to those who are unemployed is only the fulfillment of a contract; it isn't the free gift of the state. Yet the way the unemployment fund is paid out would lead many a one to think that it was a kind of a poor law relief on the same lines as loaves of bread and blankets are given to paupers.

"Then there is the irregularity of the payments. Many of the out-of-works have difficulty in getting their money. Cases are on record where men and women have not drawn on the funds for weeks and weeks. Some of the excuses are: 'Your case is being considered by the committee,' 'unemployment book gone to London,' 'you will have to be reauthorized before you can again draw', 'very sorry, but there is nothing for you this week', and so on and so forth.

"Such are the excuses that one hears week by week at the labor exchange. The unemployed go up to the payment counter in fear and trembling. They never know whether they will draw or not. They are absolutely at the mercy of a gigantic organization that is continually going wrong."

AUSTRALIAN WORKERS BARRED FROM JURIES

Sydney, Australia, Nov. 3.—According to the law of the state of New South Wales all persons who do not have an annual income of 30 pounds from real estate or personal property valued at 300 pounds are barred from jury service.

This discrimination against the workers is strikingly revealed by the fact that a committee from the New South Wales labor council has appeared before the minister of justice and asked that the law be modified so as to make all property holders and rent payers eligible for jury service. The committee pointed out that in as much as economic conditions bring many workers before the courts the principle of trying a man by his peers should be applied.

The minister for justice opposed the innovation.

EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS

Melbourne, Australia, Nov. 3.—The organized labor movement of the state of Victoria now demands that women workers shall be paid the same wages as men.

The wage schedules adopted by the state wage board fix minimum wages for both men and women workers, but the rate for the women is always less than the rate for men.

Even the state-fixed minimum wage for men is not enough adequately to support the workers' family, this delinquency having produced the movement for motherhood and child endowment.

COOLIE SEAMEN OPPOSED BY AUSTRALIAN LABOR

Sydney, Australia, Nov. 3.—The labor council of the state of New South Wales and the Seamen's Union are taking the initiative in legislation to prohibit ships manned with cheap colored labor crews from trading on the Australian coast. It is charged that the government permits certain passenger ships plying between Sydney and Melbourne to operate with coolie crews.

Union Fined $500 For Illegal Strike Under Compulsory Arbitration Law

Sydney, Australia, Nov. 3.—Judge Curlewis of the New South Wales state industrial arbitration court has fined the Amalgamated Printing Employes' Union 100 pounds (about $500) for an "illegal strike."

Under the New South Wales industrial arbitration law cessation of work as a persuasive measure to bring employers to their senses and lead them to the light of trade union principles is illegal for unions registered under the act. Unions are liable to a penalty of 500 pounds (about $2,500) a day during the duration of such a strike.

The printing employes' union was registered under the arbitration law. Its members had the 44-hour week over six days, with overtime provided for. The union made a demand for the 44-hour week over five days. The employers refused to concede the demand.

The union officials then told the employers that unless the 44-hour week over five days was granted no overtime would be worked, and perhaps the men would not be found at work on Saturday.

The employers remained obdurate. The employes kept their word and refused to work overtime.

The employers haled the union officials before the arbitration court on the charge of sanctioning an illegal strike. Judge Curlewis sustained the employers and imposed the 100 pounds fine with the warning that if the union was brought before him again on a similar charge the penalty would be heavier.

Adjusting Industrial Relations by Law Works Against Australian Trade Unionists

Adjusting industrial relations by statute law instead of by the organized economic power of the workers is quite frequently referred to as working to perfection in Australia.

The Sydney operative bakers' union is getting a dose of this kind of political state activity right now.

The bakers are working under a bread law and an award of the industrial arbitration court which fix the length of the working day and the starting time.

The master bakers carried on their plants outside the hours fixed by the bread law. The bakers initiated proceedings to have the law enforced. Whereupon the government issued instructions to the police restraining them from taking action in the matter and the minister of labor suspended investigations into alleged breaches of the bread act.

The Australian Worker charges the New South Wales government with "aiding and abetting employers to break the law" and with "deliberate attempts to prevent the employers from being prosecuted for their wrongdoing."

In regard to the enforcement of New South Wales labor laws the Worker says "it is well known that every time the workers overstep the mark they are drastically dealt with, but nothing happens when the bosses act contrary to the law. They are actually encouraged in their unconstitutional actions."

WORKERS' EDUCATION STANDS FOR TRUTH

"Workers' education stands for the freedom of truth," declares R. V. Holwell, director of the Denver labor college, "for education that has not been stereotyped by prejudiced minds.

"It stands for textbooks free from the trust and exploiter, text books founded on scientific truth and made for the use of the people, text books that will not prostitute the intellect, text books that the people can buy and still have bread, textbooks free from isms, superstition, tradition, and artificialities.

"Workers' education stands for and secures only teachers who refuse to bow to mammon, whose minds are open and in search of truth (possessing an abundance of the same), whose highest motive and aim of life is service, who are fearless, who would rather teach the truth than be the richest man in the world.

"Workers' education stands for a new day—the day of the people, the day of freedom, the day of life.

"It is human education."

BLACKSMITHS LAND TWO UNION SHOP CONTRACTS

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 3.—Officials of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers announce two new union shop contracts carrying the 8-hour day, union wages, and advantageous terms respecting "struck" work and arbitration of controversies.

The union shop contract between district number 31 and the National Stamping and Enameling Company provides that union members shall not be required to handle "struck" work. The agreement declares that "in case of either strike or lockout in other shops by our members and work done by them be received by the above company, our members reserve the right, according to the constitution, to refuse to do such work without violating the terms of this agreement."

The wage rate varies from 85½ cents an hour for first fire blacksmiths to 63½ cents for miscellaneous helpers.

The Buffalo blacksmiths' union has signed up the Dunbar & Sullivan Dredging Company for the union shop. The contract provides for the 8-hour day with $1 an hour as the minimum wage rate for blacksmiths and 75 cents for helpers, overtime and holiday work drawing double pay. Industrial disputes are to be settled by representatives of the union and the employers. In case of a deadlock the matter will be referred to a single arbitrator agreed to by both parties.

POWER TO CALL STRIKES KEPT FOR UNION VOTE

The 1923 convention of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America defeated a motion to amend the association's constitution so as to make it mandatory upon the international president or his deputy to call strikes without a strike vote of the union upon the refusal of employers to arbitrate controversies.

Delegates favoring the amendment stated that the arbitration policy was used by employers against the best interests of the union. It was claimed that there is a "psychological" time to pull a strike, and that advantages to the men are often lost due to arbitration negotiations.

President Mahon opposed the amendment and ridiculed the idea of "putting it upon an officer to declare a strike." He maintained that strikes should be voted by the membership, and that delays are not always disadvantageous to the best interests of the members of the union.

ANTI-UNION CONCERN TURNS TO UNION SHOP

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 3.—Another anti-union concern has seen the light. This time it is the Miller Brewing Company of Milwaukee, which has signed a union shop agreement with the Milwaukee Brewery Workers' Union after having fought union labor for a year and a half.

"The Miller Brewing Company has now realized that a fight with the organized workers is really a losing game," says the Brewery Workers' Journal, "and that a business can be conducted better and more profitably with good, reliable and satisfied union men."

FRANK J. BONNINGTON

Frank J. Bonnington, for many years a prominent figure in the California trade union movement, was recently killed by an automobile, in Oakland, Calif.

Bonnington was the representative of the International Typographical Union in the San Francisco district from 1901 to 1907. He was elected secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor in 1907. He served as president of the San Francisco Typographical Union from 1912 to 1914 and was assistant secretary of the American Federation of Labor 1915 convention.

"In the death of Frank J. Bonnington one of the finest characters it has been our good fortune to meet passes to the great beyond," says the Labor Clarion, the official organ of the San Francisco Labor Council. "He was a man of high ideals, tender sympathies, endless loyalty, considerate, kindly and generous to his fellow man. He was a thorough student of the labor movement and tireless in his endeavors to direct its course along successful lines."

WOMEN VOTERS BARRED FROM LEGISLATIVE BODY

Melbourne, Australia, Nov. 3.—"It is a remarkable thing that in almost every other parliament of Australia, including the federal parliament, women are eligible to be candidates for parliament," declared Legislative Councillor Disney in the upper house of the parliament of the state of Victoria in a speech in support of the bill making women electors eligible for election to the Victorian parliament.

Legislative authority in Victoria is vested in a parliament of two elective houses, the legislative council and the legislative assembly. There is a property qualification both for electors and members of the council. Men and women without qualifications have the right to vote for members of the lower house. Women, however, are not eligible for election to either house.

"I can not see any reason why they should not have the right to be elected to this parliament," continued Disney. "We have given them the vote for parliamentary elections, and it is strange that we do not allow them to become candidates.

"We all believe in majority rule, and for that reason we should make the women eligible for election to parliament. If women were elected to this house many of them would, I think, make better politicians than some of us."

ANTI-UNION EMPLOYERS SIGN UP FOR UNIONISM

Bakersfield, Calif., Nov. 3.—The Bakersfield plumbers and gasfitters' union and the other building trades here have made splendid progress in their fight against anti-union shop employers, according to Organizer James H. Sheehe in a report in the Plumbers, Gas and Steamfitters' Journal.

"The merchants of Bakersfield have learned a bitter lesson as to the folly of destroying the conditions working men and women made by organized labor," says Sheehe. "In passing through the principal business streets it was amusing to see the way the merchants are displaying union shop cards of the clerks and other crafts, and without doubt it will be a long time before they let any other Moses lead them into another effort to establish their so-called 'American' plan."

DENVER UNION HITS SCHOOL BRICKLAYERS

Bricklayers by public school certificates are roundly condemned by the bricklayers' union of Denver, Colo.

Instruction in bricklaying was engineered into the Denver public schools by a local brick contractor who is a member of the school board. Would-be bricklayers are charged $20 for the course, $10 at the beginning and $10 at the end of 12 weeks, when they get their certificate and are expected to be comptent bricklayers.

The Denver bricklayers' union has withdrawn its members from work being done by the brick contractor member of the school board as a protest against the school-certified bricklayer scheme.

Terre Haute Cooperative Union Laundry Increases Business Twenty Per Cent

Terre Haute, Ind., Nov. 3.—The Cooperative Union Laundry of Terre Haute is a pronounced success and has enjoyed a prosperous year according to the report to the annual meeting of the stockholders, who are the Terre Haute labor unions and individual trade unionists.

The auditor's report disclosed the fact that the year just ended was the most successful one in the laundry's history. There was a 20 per cent increase in business over the preceding year. New machinery costing $5,000 has been added.

"The organized labor movement of the state of Indiana spent approximately $12,000 in their endeavor to bring about better wages and better working conditions for those of our mothers, sisters, and daughters who were compelled to seek employment in the laundries of Terre Haute," declares the Terre Haute Advocate, the official organ of the Terre Haute trade union movement. "The conditions prior to the strike of 1919 were intolerant and unbearable. The better conditions now prevailing in both union and non-union laundries can be attributed solely to the activities of the labor movement.

"The union laundry was the first of three big ventures of the labor movement of Terre Haute. Following its most successful and progressive year, it now stands out pre-eminently as one of our greatest achievements."

Employer Violence Against Workers' Rights

Railway Managers Use Employer Courts To Railroad Trade Unionists to Jail

Using employer-owned courts to inflict jail sentences upon trade unionists for strike activities is a standard method of reprisal resorted to by anti-union employers. It was used by the management of the Western Maryland Railroad as a repressive measure against the shopmen who left the company's service some 18 months ago.

"The men on the Western Maryland have put up one of the best fights that has ever been known in this part of the country," writes Vice President Tobin in the Monthly Journal of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers. "In the beginning of the struggle the management did everything they knew to discourage the men. They used the courts in every manner possible, and as a last resort they made goats of some of the strikers.

"They believed that if they could trump up serious charges against some of the leaders and have them sentenced to long terms in prison, they would be able to break the spirit of the others. So they selected five of the active men on strike. Two of them are serving seven years in the Maryland penitentiary, and two others are serving five-year sentences, the fifth having died.

"Among these four men is a member of our own brotherhood."

Tobin declares that the strike has badly crippled the Western Maryland, less than 25 per cent of its rolling stock being fit for use or acceptable by foreign roads.

WORKERS INTIMIDATED FOR UNION ACTIVITY

Officials of the Denver (Colo.) tramway system use threats of dismissal and actual dismissal to intimidate employes who are active in trade union organization work, according to the Colorado Labor Advocate, the official organ of the Colorado State Federation of Labor.

It is claimed that the management dismissed three employes "who were suspected of being in favor of unionizing the tramway."

"Men have been discharged because they so much as went to the headquarters of the State Federation of Labor."

Even the police force is requisitioned in the interest of the anti-union tramway management.

Organized labor called a meeting to consider organizing the tramway employes. "The tramway supervisors were busy during the afternoon warning their men not to attend the meeting," declares the Advocate. "Four men who were passing bills announcing the meeting were taken to police headquarters and warned they must stop passing bills without a permit. This is a city ordinance which is not used against anyone but the workers so far as we have heard.

"We shall fight this thing through until the time comes that even in Denver men shall have the right to attend union meetings without fear of losing their jobs."

GOVERNMENT WORKERS WANT PENSION RAISE

United States Senator Sterling of South Dakota, who is credited with persistent work for the enactment of the present retirement pension system for government employes, announces that he will endeavor to secure legislation in the next congress to increase the pension from $60 to $100 a month.

The pension fund is created by a check-off system under which government officials deduct a certain amount from the pay of each government employe eligible for a pension and transfer it to the commissioner of pensions, who administers the fund. The government makes no contribution, but administers the fund without charge and guarantees its safety.

Under the present $60 limit a surplus of several million dollars has accumulated.

RID LABOR MOVEMENT OF ALL COMMUNISTS

Spokane, Wash., Nov. 3.—"Now that the American Federation of Labor has kicked from its midst a self-avowed communist, it would do well for a few central labor councils and state bodies to rid themselves also of these persons seeking the destruction of the labor movement," declares the Spokane Labor World in commenting on the expulsion of William F. Dunne from the American Federation of Labor 1923 convention.

"Foster got his in Illinois; Dunne was expelled at Portland. And those who share the same sentiments, speak in their behalf and vote to keep them in the councils of the American labor movement may expect a like fate."

MANUFACTURERS USE FAKE UNION LABEL?

Washington, Nov. 3.—The federal trade commission has issued a complaint against the King Overall company, the Atlantic Overall company, and A. Greenbarg Sons, of Philadelphia, Pa., manufacturers of overalls and trousers, charging them with falsely marking their goods "union made."

The commission's complaint alleges that the concerns' overalls and trousers "are not manufactured by workmen or artisans who are members or affiliated with associations or organizations generally known, recognized and referred to as unions, but, on the contrary, are what is known as 'non-union made'."

The commission asserts that this practice has the "tendency to mislead and deceive the purchasing public into the erroneous belief that respondents' products are union made."

VIOLENCE TO UNIONISTS INCITED BY EMPLOYERS

Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 3.—The Indiana State Federation of Labor notifies the unions of the state that the Holland Furnace Company foundry, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has been struck by the International Molders' Union because of refusal to recognize the 8-hour day and other union shop conditions.

It is claimed that anti-union employes of the Holland concern's establishment at Holland, Mich., in an attempt to terrorize the union molders and drive them from the city seized the 17-year-old son of a member of the Holland Molders' Union, rushed him in an automobile a number of miles from town, maltreated him, and threatened to kill him if he ever returned to Holland.

One of the mob has already been convicted in the criminal court.

UNSKILLED LABOR EXODUS GOOD THING FOR SOUTH

"The South, we are told, is losing thousands of its common laborers, the majority of whom are inefficient, accustomed to long hours of slow ineffective work, unsanitary conditions and low standards of living," says the American Pressman, the official organ of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America, in an article on the so-called shortage of labor.

"It is well for the south, but some short-sighted capitalists and loud-mouthed, cunning politicians are publicly bemoaning the loss of this crude, inferior labor.

"The time is shortly coming when it will be generally recognized that the loss of such labor is the South's gain. And so it is with crude labor and low standards—the sooner we get rid of both the better off we will be."

WEST VA. WAITERS WIN UNION WAGES AND HOURS

Morgantown, W. Va., Nov. 3.—The newly organized Morgantown local of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance has signed up a number of Morgantown concerns for the union shop with outstanding wage increases and shorter work day.

ANTI-UNION PLEDGE FORCED ON WORKERS

Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 3.—Under our federal and state constitutions and statute laws the workers have the constitutional and legal right to combine in trade unions for their mutual protection and advancement.

But these rights appear to be paper rights only for the Chattanooga textile workers as long as the employers have absolute power to exercise economic violence against the workers by refusing to employ them unless they sign away their rights in order to retain or secure work.

This sort of employer violence is being resorted to by officials of the United Hosiery mills in the odious form of an anti-trade-union pledge, according to the Chattanooga Textile Workers' union.

The anti-union contract which it is alleged the United Hosiery mills is imposing upon its employes reads:

"If accepted for employment by the (name of mill), I agree to work faithfully and diligently at whatever task I am assigned to at the wage agreed upon; and further not to leave their employment without giving two weeks' notice.

"I certify that I am not now a member of any labor union or organization, and agree not to hold membership in any labor union or labor organization during the time of my employment."

Workers in the company's East Chattanooga mills have been on strike for a number of weeks against unjust treatment.

It is charged the anti-union pledges are part of the company's plan to kill the spirit of trade unionism among textile workers and prevent future trade union organization.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CHARGED TO EMPLOYERS

Eight hundred and three workers were killed in Ohio last year by industrial accidents. The chief of the division of workshops and factories states that he is formulating plans to reduce the number of accidents by educating both empolyers and employes.

A United States senator once said that the surest way to prevent railroad accidents would be to put a member of the railroad's board of directors on the cow-catcher of every locomotive.

Industrial accidents, fatal and non-fatal, are largely if not wholly due to the refusal of employers either to provide safety equipment or to adequately administer it after its provision is made compulsory by legislation.

If employers or their immediate relatives were compelled to work at dangerous machines and in dangerous places in our industries, there would be a surprising diminution in both non-fatal and fatal accidents.

EMPLOYES HAVE VOICE IN RAILROAD DIRECTORATE

Under recent legislation the Austrian government railways have passed under the control of an autonomous corporation to administer the roads as trustee for the government, which furnishes the capital and covers deficits.

Removal of the railroads from political influence and centralization in administration are claimed to be the objects of the new law.

The roads are administered by an executive committee of five members responsible to a commission of 14 directors, 11 of whom are required to be business men or experts in handling transportation problems and are appointed by the government. Three members are chosen by the railway employes.

LOW EARNINGS CAUSE OF INFANT MORTALITY

"The subject of infant mortality was selected for the bureau's initial inquiry because it was of fundamental social importance and of popular interest," writes Grace Abbott, chief of the federal children's bureau, in a review of the first 10 years of the bureau's life.

"The coincidence of a high mortality rate with low earnings, poor housing, the employment of the mother outside the home, and large families was indicated in all these studies."

TRADE UNIONS RETURN FULL VALUE FOR DUES

"The present public school system was put into effect through organized labor," writes Charles H. Duffield in the Amalgamated Journal, the official organ of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers. "It fought private schools until it compelled the state to educate the children free.

"It was organized labor that brought about the short workday. No union workman would consider working from dawn till dark as it was years ago. We know very little of the bitter struggles put up by union labor for the sanitary conditions we all enjoy in the mill, mine and factory of today. They are the results of union labor.

"In one state last year labor succeeded in defeating bills relieving the farmers from the provisions of the workmen's compensation law, repealing the free employment bureau law, increasing a state constabulary, compulsory labor, repealing the miners' qualification law, and the appointment as police officers of persons selected by railroads. Not so bad for one state.

"These are a few of the many uses to which dues and assessments are put."

ASHEVILLE PRINTERS FIRM FOR WAGE RAISE

Asheville, N. C.—The wage-increase strike of the union printers of Asheville against the Citizen and the Times is being conducted vigorously.

The strikers have gotten out a bulletin to give the facts to the public. It is claimed that wage rates in the two anti-union daily papers are lower than the wage scales of Asheville plumbers, brick masons and sheet metal workers.

The contention of the Citizen that the wage increase demanded by the printers would necessitate an increase in advertising rates is regarded as ridiculous. It is pointed out that the cost per page here is but $7.50, compared with $21.80 on the Atlanta Constitution.

Although the newspaper proprietors insisted on an arbitration clause in the contract which was finally rejected because of the wage increase demand, they now refuse to submit the dispute to arbitration.

EMPLOYER NEGLIGENCE KILLS 21 MINE WORKERS

"Labor demands that every mine shall be equipped with the latest scientific devices for assisting the miner in the inevitable hour of peril," declares the Australian Worker in an article condemning the direct negligence on the part of the mine owners as responsible for the recent mine explosion in the Bellbird colliery, in Australia, which killed 21 miners.

The disaster was the greatest that has ever occurred in the district. The men were trapped by the deadly fumes of carbon-monoxide gas.

It it affirmed that the absence of life-saving apparatus was appalling, not even one respirator being available for the use of either the unfortunate miners or the rescue parties which vainly tried to penetrate the curtain of poison gas in the mine.

It is asserted that mine owners refuse to install supplies of respirators and to provide rescue stations because the cost is too great.

From the mine owners' viewpoint the lives of the workers are less sacred than profits.

PLUMBERS ARE WINNING FIGHT FOR UNION SHOP

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 3.—"The Chicago citizens' committee is again scouring the country to bring more non-union plumbers here," writes Organizer Richard P. Walsh in the Plumbers, Gas and Steamfitters' Journal. "They have started in the east, commencing at Buffalo, and visiting all the towns and cities in New York state.

"Several of the men whom they induced to come here visited me shortly after their arrival and informed me that facts were misrepresented to them and that they had no idea they were to be used to assist in destroying the unions, and expressed their desire to cooperate with us in every way.

"The citizens' committee is finding it very difficult to man their jobs with sufficient help. The actual employer, who is weary of it all, is asking himself when it is going to end. In reality, he is the biggest sufferer. But the big financial interests and union haters want to continue the battle and they are encouraged by the high-salaried officials whom they engage to make the fight for them."

FUR WORKERS SECURE UNION SHOP CONTRACTS

The International Fur Workers' Union of the United States and Canada announce important union shop victories.

In Toronto, Canada, the union pulled a strike against some 25 "independent" shops and tied the bosses up so completely that they came across with recognition of the union, 44-hour week, time and a half for overtime, eight legal holidays, and a minimum wage scale.

In Cleveland, Ohio, the fur workers' strike pulled the 50 and 54 hour week down to 44 hours, with six legal holidays, time and a half for overtime, and minimum wage scale for all branches.

In Montreal, Canada, wage increases running from 10 to 20 per cent have been secured and the membership boosted 35 per cent.

RAILROAD SHOPMEN DITCH BOSSES' COMPANY UNION

The shopmen on the Chicago & Alton Railroad have ditched the railroad management's company union which was forced upon them, with the check off applied by deducting dues from the pay envelopes over the men's protest, according to Vice President Barry of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers.

The men asked the management to abolish the company union. The management refused. The men then appealed the matter to the Railroad Labor Board, which still has the matter under advisement.

"We are holding mass meetings at all points on the system," declares Barry, "and we find the men 100 per cent against the company organization."

OPPOSE COMMISSARY

Colon, Republic of Panama, Nov. 3.—Colon merchants are protesting against the new retail commissary at Cristobal for the employes of the Panama Canal and the Panama railroad. The commissary faces one of Colon's busiest streets.

"A commissary with show windows is all right in Balboa or Gatun," says the Panama Star and Herald, "but when it comes to a city like Colon it is not fair for the business interests of the Republic, and the authorities have been very poorly advised in approving such a plan."

Coronado Company Loses $2,222,000 Suit Against United Mine Workers of America

Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 3.—The anti-union Coronado coal company has lost its case to mulct the United Mine Workers of America of $2,222,000 damages, which it is alleged the company sustained because of property destruction in the Hartford Valley coal strike of 1914.

The company brought suit in the United States district court under the Sherman anti-trust act, claiming that the alleged property destruction interfered with interstate commerce within the meaning of the act and that the United Mine Workers of America as a union was legally liable for the alleged damages.

In directing the verdict Federal Judge John C. Pollock declared that the Coronado coal company "must establish that everyone against whom they ask a verdict knowingly participated in what occurred." It must be established "not only that property was lost through the conspiracy but that the conspiracy was formed for the direct purpose of monopolizing interstate commerce" for union-mined coal and to interfere with interstate commerce in non-union coal.

The Coronado coal company had failed to establish this, Judge Pollock said. If there was a conspiracy at all, it was a conspiracy to prevent the operation of the Coronado mines as non-union mines.

But mining coal is not interstate commerce. And, manifestly, the attempt of the miners to persuade Franklin Bache of Philadelphia to hire union miners to operate the Coronado mine can not be regarded as interference with interstate commerce.

Judge Pollock denied the company's contention that the United Mine Workers as a national union is bound by the activities of individual members of the organization.

This is the second victory for the mine workers. In the first Coronado case the lower courts awarded $700,000 damages. Last year the supreme court of the United States reversed the verdict on the ground that the company had failed to establish jurisdiction under the Sherman act and ordered a new trial.

Organization of Labor's Power to Produce Wealth Wins Workers' Economic Security

"There can be no question that the most important achievement of the trade union movement is the assurance of economic security and self-preservance of the workers in the struggles for their daily existence," declares the Bakers' Journal, the official organ of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America.

"The policy of our international union always has been that the material achievements must be, and are, the internal bonds upon which the stability of the organization rests.

"In the preamble of the international union's constitution the fundamental principles are laid down.

"They clearly express that the economic organization of labor is the natural weapon of offense and defense in the hands of the organized worker."

"When we look back to the year 1886, the first year of a convention of representatives of the organized bakery workers in our country, we can measure the tremendous progress which our organization has made toward elevating one of the worst paid trades, changing its former indescribable working conditions into the most sanitary and raising the trade itself to the proud position of one of the best."